

Minutes of DoD Sexually Transmitted Diseases Prevention Committee Meeting of 9 March 99

Attending

Dana Bradshaw, CAPT, USN
Bill Calvert, Navy Environmental Health Center
Ronald Hale, Maj., USAF, MC
John Mascola, CDR, USN. MC
Lynn Pahland, Health Affairs
Donna Ruscavage, Henry Jackson Foundation
Kevin Stephan, Maj, USAF, MC
Terry Trobaugh, NNMC Bethesda
Kathleen Wiltsie, MAJ, MSN

1. Bill Calvert convened the meeting at 1000 at the National Naval Medical Center Bethesda, delayed 1 hour due to telephone conferencing difficulties, and participant travel delays due to inclement weather. Majors Stephan and Hale joined the meeting via telephone.
2. Lynn Pahland, Health Affairs provided the group with an update regarding the Prevention Safety and Health Promotion Council (PSHPC). This is a high level, senior leadership Council expected to be Chartered by Secretary Cohen. It includes leaders from all aspects of the Department of Defense including Safety, and MWR. This Council is a good forum for the activities of the Joints Services HIV Education Working Group (JSHEWG) which is why we are being chartered under the PSHPC as the Sexually Transmitted Disease Prevention Committee (STDPC).

The History of the PSHPC was reviewed. Ms. Pahland noted that Mr. DeLeon, Under Secretary for Defense for Personnel and Readiness, initially convened a group of Department of Defense experts to develop a DoD Prevention Plan for three main areas: Injury prevention, tobacco use prevention and alcohol abuse prevention. Since the evolvement into the PSHPC, STDs, Put Prevention Into Practice (PIIP) and Health Enrollment Assessment Review (HEAR) were added to be included in the Charter.

The role of the PSHPC and respective subcommittees are to enhance collaboration, cooperation and coordination of activities throughout the services and DoD agencies within the services. It is not to replace any existing activities. The role of the STDPC will be to develop a DoD wide plan of action and present this plan to the Council for approval. The Council has high level representatives that will make the plan happen with the STDPC facilitating plan fulfillment.

Issues currently being addressed have been addressed in very effective manners. For instance, the Alcohol Abuse Prevention and Tobacco Use Cessation Committee

addressed sensitive issues regarding limiting access and increasing cost of these products. The effect of this would greatly impact MWR revenues which support excellent projects such as child care centers, gymnasiums, etc. MWR, as a participant on the committee, was able to work out these issues in the committee plan. Thus the committee with their diverse representation is an excellent forum to address health policy and prevention issues.

Ms. Pahland recommendations to the STDPC.

- Review and revise Charter.
 - Align wording to PSHPC's Charter
 - Expand membership. In doing so, do not be specific to include individuals. If not sure of agency, be specific at what we are looking for and the PSHPC will identify the appropriate agency within each service to be representative. We want to be sure that whoever is selected, that they "speak for" that agency.
 - Once the Charter is approved and staffed, the new group should look at the STDPC plan for review and revision. The committee may have subcommittees to address specific items in the plan.
3. Mr. Calvert asked the committee to discuss his appointment by Dr. Craig Hendrix, former Chairman, as interim chairman. The group affirmed his appointment and further suggested Maj. Ronald Hale be appointed Co-Chairman. Maj. Hale accepted and both will serve as Co-Chairs until such time that the PSHPC appoints a new chairperson. The new appointment is expected after completion and approval of the STDPC Charter and additional staff appointments are made.
 4. UN update: Donna Ruscavage, informed the group that UN curriculum is being completed and that pilot testing will begin at the UN training facility in Italy.
 5. USAF Train the Trainer update: Major Kevin Stephan noted that billeting is arranged and they are working on their speakers list. They expect 65 billets and are still working on obtaining needed funding.
 6. US Task Force on Community Preventive Services: Bill Calvert updated the group regarding his participation as the Navy Representative to the task force. He assumed this role last fall, a role that initially began as the DoD representative. Under the auspices of the US Public Health Service, the Task Force is developing a Guide to Community Preventive Services. The Guide will summarize what is known about the effectiveness of population-based interventions for prevention and control. Where data exist, the Guide will also summarize information on the cost-effectiveness of these interventions. Based on available evidence, the Guide will provide recommendations on these population-based interventions and methods for their delivery.

The activities of the Task Force mirror some of the activities of the PSHPC. Recommendation regarding community tobacco interventions have already been shared with the Alcohol and Tobacco Committee members. Mr. Calvert is serving as a

key consultant to the Guide's Chapter on Sexual Behavior, a section that should assist with the objectives of the STDPC.

Mr. Calvert attended a Federal Liaisons meeting in Washington, DC, on February 3rd. During this meeting he recommended expanding military representation. Subsequently, a letter from the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will be sent to the Assistant Secretary for Health Affairs, with a copy to the Surgeons General, stating Navy's participation and requesting participation from each un-represented service, as well as Health Affairs. This should be advantageous for each service and enhance distribution of the Guide's recommendations throughout DoD.

During the Quarterly meeting of the Task Force on February 10th and 11th, the Task Force reviewed their status. The Guide should be completed by December, 2000. Currently chapters for Motor Vehicle Occupant Injury, Vaccine Preventable Diseases, and Tobacco are nearing completion. Sexual Behavior has just begun, outlining their proposed logic framework and proposed interventions for the chapter. As each chapter is completed, they will be published in various peer reviewed journals and made available as free standing chapters.

7. CAPT Dana Bradshaw informed the group that he will be attending, but will not be available for every meeting, requesting to remain on the distribution list for minutes and materials.

Next Meeting Date: April 20th at 0930 at NNMC Bethesda. The group will be expected to review and revise the STDPC Charter. A teleconference availability will be arranged for those not able to attend in person.

Minutes taken by
Bill Calvert
Co-Chairman